

Claims

1 1. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a plurality of access adapters, each adapter configured to
3 interface with an electronic resource;
4 at least one shareable spare adapter configured to interface with
5 the electronic resource;
6 control circuitry configured to initiate a substitution of the
7 shareable spare adapter for any of the plurality of access adapters to supplant a
8 substituted access adapter.

1 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates the substitution in response to an event.

1 3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates monitoring of the event.

1 4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates notification procedures regarding the event.

1 5. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the event
2 includes a change in a heartbeat signal transmitted by an access adapter.

1 6. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates monitoring a process that monitors the event.

1 7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a port of an
2 access adapter of the plurality of access adapters interfaces with only a subset
3 of the shared resource.

1 8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates a reconfiguration of an access adapter into a second
3 shareable spare adapter.

1 9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates a removal of a correlation token from an access adapter.

1 10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates an assignment of the correlation token to the shareable spare
3 adapter.

1 11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates an evaluation of the correlation token.

1 12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates a replacement of an access adapter.

1 13. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates a disablement of the shareable spare adapter.

1 14. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control
2 circuitry initiates disabling an access adapter.

1 15. A method of providing access to a computer resource,
2 wherein a plurality of access adapters each interface with the computer
3 resource, the method comprising using a shareable spare adapter to supplant
4 an interface provided by a first adapter of the plurality of access adapters,
5 wherein the shareable spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a
6 second interface provided by a second access adapter of the plurality of access
7 adapters.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the shareable
2 spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a third interface provided
3 by any of the plurality of access adapters.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 supplanting the interface in response to an event.

1 18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising
2 monitoring of the event.

1 19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising
2 initiating notification procedures regarding the event.

1 20. The method according to claim 17, further comprising
2 monitoring a process that monitors the event.

1 21. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 reconfiguring the first access adapter into a second shareable spare adapter.

1 22. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 removing a correlation token from the second access adapter.

1 23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising
2 assigning the correlation token to the shareable spare adapter.

1 24. The method according to claim 22, further comprising
2 evaluating the correlation token.

1 25. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 replacing the second access adapter.

1 26. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 disabling the shareable spare adapter.

1 27. The method according to claim 15, further comprising
2 disabling the second access adapter.

1 28. The method according to claim 15, wherein each of the
2 first and second adapters access a different subset of the shared resource.

1 29. A program product, comprising:
2 (a) a program for providing access to a computer resource,
3 wherein a plurality of access adapters each interface with the computer
4 resource, the program configured to use a shareable spare adapter to supplant
5 an interface provided by a first adapter of the plurality of access adapters,
6 wherein the shareable spare adapter is additionally configured to supplant a
7 second interface provided by a second access adapter of the plurality of access
8 adapters; and
9 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

1 30. The program product of claim 29, wherein the signal
2 bearing media includes at least one of a recordable media and a transmission
3 type media.